

To: Senate Co-Chair Cathy Osten
House Co-Chair Toni Walker

From: Beverly Streit-Kefalas
Probate Court Administrator

Date: July 15, 2020

Re: Demographics of individuals served by the Probate Court system,
Response to inquiry posed during Appropriations Committee Informational Hearing on
the Fiscal Impact of COVID-19 on the Judicial Branch and Probate Court Administration
Budgets held on July 6, 2020

The Probate Courts facilitate family and community based solutions to meet the needs of children, seniors and individuals with intellectual disabilities, mental illness and addiction. Probate Court interventions save the state over \$1.5 billion¹ annually by avoiding more costly state services to meet the needs of these vulnerable citizens.

Demographics of individuals whose needs are met by the Probate Courts²:

- 7,191 children under 18 are placed in Probate Court family-centered guardianships saving \$72 million annually from foster care services
- 21,000 adults in Probate Court conservatorships receive essential assistance in managing personal or financial needs and maximizing independence
- 1,841 individuals with intellectual disabilities, mental illness and addiction are receiving services through conservator-arranged community-based support programs rather than placement or treatment in in-patient care facilities saving over \$1 billion annually
- 27% of conserved adults receiving Title 19 assistance are in community based and home care settings, saving \$440 million annually in nursing home and hospital expenses

¹ Based on May 2020 statistics

² Based on FY19 populations